National Organic Standards Board Meeting, May 13 – 14, 2003, Austin, Texas

Processing Committee Recommendation: Egg White Lysozyme **FINAL**

Introduction: Egg White Lysozyme has been petitioned for addition to the National List of Substances Allowed and Prohibited in Organic Production and Handling as a nonagricultural substance allowed in processed products labeled as "organic" and "made with organic" ingredients.

Background: Enzymes are currently included as follows on the National List CFR205.605 (a) *non-synthetics allowed:* **Enzymes – must be derived from edible, nontoxic plants, nonpathogenic fungi, or nonpathogenic bacteria.**

In November 2000 the NOSB recommended to add enzymes, animal derived–non-synthetics allowed - Rennet (animal derived), catalase (bovine liver), animal lipase, pancreatin, pepsin, trypsin.

Enzymes have historically been used by organic food processors. Enzymes act as catalysts. They accelerate the rate at which various biochemical reactions achieve equilibrium, but are not themselves changed in the reaction. The active components of enzymes consist of the biological active proteins.

The consensus among the reviewers was that enzymes are non-synthetic. The reviewers also agreed that many enzymes are compatible with organic principles but should be considered on a case by case basis. The reviewers all reiterated the prohibition of all GE enzymes.

The committee unanimously agreed with the reviewers after consideration of the TAPs, discussions with industry stakeholders, material(s) from the petitioner and data forwarded from the contractor.

The committee offers the following recommendation for consideration:

Recommendation:

Add to 205.605 (a) Non-synthetics allowed
Animal derived – Rennet, catalase animal lipase, pancreatin, pepsin, trypsin, **egg white lysozyme.**

Note: Technical Correction - Animal derived is under 205.605 (b) in the federal register docket. This needs to be corrected.

Committee Vote:

Non-synthetic – unanimous
Recommendation – unanimous

Minority Opinion:

None

Conclusion:

This recommendation is consistent with past enzyme recommendations and meets organic criteria.